Improvement of the Vallivattom bridge.

97. Mr. A. L. Antony.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware of the immediate necessity of improving the small bridge at Vallivattom on the road leading from Karupadanna market to the Vallivattom ferry which was damaged completely by the heavy floods of 1099;

(b) whether the Government intend taking immediate steps to repair the same?

Mr. V.K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—Sir, am I to understand from the answer to (b) that the work will be taken up this year itself?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not in my power to say that. I think the Government may take it up next year.

Medium of instruction in Primary Schools.

98. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state what language is the medium of instruction in Primary Schools in places where the Vernacular is Tamil;

2. if it is not Tamil, will the Government be pleased to state how children; who will be only between five and ten years of age, can be made to understand in a language foreign to them?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Malayalam is the general medium of instruction in all Primary Schools in the State in accordance with article 15 (3), *Cochin Education Code*. In schools situated on the borders of Tamil Districts, Tamil is taught and is freely used for purposes of instruction.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—In schools situated on the borders of Tamil Districts, I understand that certain Head-masters take objection to the teachers using Tamil as the medium of instruction. Will the Government be pleased to issue circulars that Tamil should be the medium of instruction?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Instructions have been given. I have issued a circular to that effect.

Encouragement of Malayalam Short-hand.

99. Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Will the Government be pleased to state what they have done to encourage Malayalam Short-hand?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Government have sanctioned the opening of a Malayalam Short-hand class in the G. T. School, Trichur, as an experimental measure, and the entertaining of the services of the founder Mr. N. S. Pandalai himself to ensure the success of the class.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—May I know, Sir, whether it is only after ascertaining this experimental class that you propose to appoint other teachers and open fresh classes?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—For the time being, it is thought that we should watch the experimental class at Trichur and then decide.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Has Mr. Pandalai accepted the offer, the teachership in the Trichur Commercial School?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—He has not formally accepted the offer. So that he may accept the offer formally, request is to go from here officially. Then only we can say he formally accepted the offer.

100. Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Will the Government kindly say whethr they propose to appoint teachers in State Schools to teach Malayalam Short-hand?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Vide answer to question No. 99.

Petition of Mr. Pandalai, inventor of Malayalam Short-hand, etc.

101 Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have received a petition from Mr. Pandalai of Travancore, the inventor of short-hand and type-writing in Malayalam;

(b) what was the prayer of the petition;

(c) how did the Government dispose of it?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Without more particulars about the petition referred to, the information asked for cannot, it is regretted, be supplied.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—May I know whether more than one petition was received from Mr. Pandalai of Travancore?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I cannot say without looking into the records.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—It could have been easily found out.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It was very difficult to find out from the files whether petitions were received, since no particulars with regard to the matter have been supplied by the Member.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—The petition referring to the request that the type-writers invented by him may be purchased by the Government.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—If the Member gives at least more particulars about this, we can find it out a little more easily.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly